

ILLEGIB

## The World

# Chiang's Son A Good Guy —Anywhere But Taiwan

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**C**RISSCROSSING AMERICA last month, Chinese Nationalist Gen. Chiang Ching-kuo performed all the formalities that go with a Pentagon package tour. He visited Army camps and naval stations, delivered luncheon speeches and conferred in the faintly conspiratorial tones that typify "private talks with officials."

At every turn, too, Chiang chanted the familiar Nationalist litany: that China's Communist tyranny is tottering on the edge of collapse and could be toppled by a slight shove. Implied in this thesis is the suggestion that the United States lend its muscle to the push.

For Chiang, however, the round of reviewing troops, saluting flags and spinning out dreams was perhaps less significant than the fact that he was presenting himself to Americans.

## The Heir Apparent

**A**S ELDER SON of the septuagenarian Chiang Kai-shek, Gen. Chiang is nearly certain to inherit absolute control of the autocratic Chinese Nationalist regime on its island refuge of Taiwan. To fill his father's boots, he must also try to acquire part of the old Generalissimo's almost legendary image.

Perpetuating that image in the United States is essential to the Nationalists, who depend upon American support for survival. Their 600,000-man armed force, overweight with generals and colonels, is sustained by some \$100 million a year in U. S. military aid.



The Generalissimo and Mme. Chiang

dangerous leanings toward liberalism. As Minister of National Defense since January, Chiang clearly controls the firepower in what is essentially a military state.

## McCarthy Comparison

**S**OME YEARS ago, the late Dr. Hu Shih, one of modern China's most celebrated philosophers, visited Taiwan and voiced an opinion quietly shared by many of the island's inhabitants. "Both Ching-kuo and Sen. McCarthy are fighting communism," he said. "In both cases, it is a question of method."

Chiang has repeatedly strived to justify his reliance on dictatorial ways by arguing that Nationalist China is engaged in a civil war with the Communists. The struggle against communism, he once told an interviewer, requires "concentrated leadership." And he added that "it was concentrated leadership which allowed Stalin to build a strong party and state" in Soviet Russia.

That reference to Stalin's Russia is meaningful. For Chiang, curiously enough, spent his formative years in the Soviet Union during its headiest days of revolutionary fervor. Those years, combined with his experience in China's chaotic upheavals, molded